

INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS

A Regional Project for South America

These visitors are invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

Primary Program Contacts: Ms. Dana Schwarz, Program Officer, International Visitors Council of Los Angeles, 3540 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 910, Los Angeles, CA 90010; Telephone - (213) 388-1428 ext. 25; Fax - (213) 388-5879; Email – dschwarz@ivcla.org

Department of State Program Contacts: Mr. Damon Woods and Ms. Joyce Weems-Harrod, Office of International Visitors; Telephone - (202) 632-3304 or (202) 632-3297; Email - woodsdv@state.gov or weemsjh@state.gov

Accompanied By: Ms. Alison Rives and Ms. Concepcion Vasquez: Administrative Interpreters; Ms. Johanna Parker and Ms. Ellen Wingo: Simultaneous Interpreters

January 25 – 29, 2011

PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES

This 21-day project is designed for community and political leaders, academics, journalists, and government officials interested in minority participation in the political process. The project will explore the evolution of the civil rights movement in the U.S. and the growing involvement of various minority groups in politics and the political process. Participants will look at ways non-candidates can influence the public agenda and how American politicians work to attract minority voters. The project will also examine how minority groups organize themselves to ensure representation in the nation's legislative bodies and throughout all levels of government.

The Department of State has outlined the following specific objectives for the project:

- To provide a better understanding of the democratic form of government in the United States and demonstrate how U.S. citizens participate in the democratic process;
- To explore the involvement of American minority groups in the political process;
- To illustrate how Americans promote improvement in race relations in general, through integration and multiculturalism in politics, economics and culture in the U.S.; and
- To introduce the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. and to examine the current status of race relations among Americans.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Bolivia	Mr. Nestor Alejandro ALAVI HUARACHI Native authority of the Aymara Suni Uta Choquemarca Community, Caripe, Sajama Region
Chile	Mrs. Jaqueline Margarita CANIGUAN Professor, Intercultural Education at Catholic University of Temuco
Ecuador	Mr. Juan Carlos OCLES ARCE Social Inclusion Secretary to the Municipality of Quito
Guatemala	Ms. Ana Lucia BLAS ARANA Political Researcher
Honduras	Ms. Laura DIAZ ARITA Planning Director, MOPAWI (Agency for the Development of La Mosquitia)
Mexico	Ms. Lucero Fatima RUELAS AVILA Political Adviser to Aguascalientes State's Governor, National Action Party (PAN)
Nicaragua	Mr. Eliseo Filimoro VALENDRES GARCIA Executive President, Citizen Participation Network Pro Democratic Governability of RAAN
Panama	Mr. Betanio CHIQUIDAMA CABRERA General Cacique, Embera-Wounaan Tribe
Peru	Mr. Fernando Shuar VELASQUEZ RUIZ Student and researcher in the Bagua Case, University of Piura Business School (PAD)
Venezuela	Ms. Nikarely Thivayre MAPPARI LARREAL Assistant Deputy to the Permanent Commission of Indigenous People, Environment and Natural Resources, Legislative Council of Zulia State Ms. Isabel Carolina MEDINA ORTIZ Consultant Lawyer, National Elections Council, CNE Ms. Ursula Coromoto STRAKA MEDINA Director, Public Policy Training Program, Andres Bello Catholic University (UCAB), World Bank and ONG ProPaz

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Bolivia

Name: **Mr. Nestor Alejandro ALAVI HUARACHI**

Present Position: Native authority of the Aymara Suni Uta Choquemarca Community, Caripe, Sajama Region

Previous Positions: United Nations Peace soldier in Congo

Education/Training: Studies in car mechanics, Simon Bolivar Technical Institute, El Alto, Bolivia 2007
Peacekeeping course, sponsored by the Bolivian Army, Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 2008

Address: Calle 1 No. 277
Villa Adela, Zona Amig Chaco
Bolivia
Telephone: 591-720-17626
Email: ale_nok_18@hotmail.com

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: None previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Congo

Chile

Name: **Mrs. Jaqueline Margarita CANIGUAN**

Present Position: Professor of Intercultural Education at Catholic University of Temuco

Concurrent Position: Support teacher at Licanko Consultors

Previous Positions: Faculty member, Universidad de la Frontera, 2008-2009
Language Director, Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana, 2006-2007
Intercultural Education Coordinator, Fundación Instituto Indígena, 2005-2007
Researcher, Instituto de Estudios Indígenas, Universidad de la Frontera, 2002
Regional Advisor, 'Servicio País' Program, 2000-2001
Field expert, 'Servicio País' Program, Puerto Saavedra, 1998-1999
Primary Education Teacher, rural schools, Puerto Saavedra

Education/Training: Masters' degree, Indo American Linguistics, Social Anthropology Higher Education and Research Center, Mexico, 2006
Post graduate degree in Education, Universidad de la Frontera, Chile, 1998
Bachelor's degree, Spanish Pedagogy, Universidad de la Frontera, Chile, 1997

Memberships: Mapuche organization: Territorial Identity Lafkenche
Mapuche daily: Azkintuwe

Publications: Columnist at Mapuche daily: 'Azkintuwe';
Co-author: 'The Mapudungun dialect: its validity in the south of Chile', 2008
Co-author: 'Continuance and movement: thesis about the vitality of Mapudungun', 2008
Co-author: 'Sociolinguistic Profile of Regions VIII, IX and X'
Author: 'Teaching Mapudungun handbook'
Author: '20 selected contemporary Mapuche poets'
Author: 'How do Mapuches speak today?' 2004
Author: 'Mapuches mother tongue'

Address: Manuel Montt 56
Chile
Telephone: 56+9 79 98 51 41
Email: kaniwan@gmail.com

Languages: Spanish (primary), Mapudungun

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Spain, Peru, Mexico

Ecuador

Name: **Mr. Juan Carlos OCLES ARCE**

Present Position: Social Inclusion Secretary to the Municipality of Quito

Concurrent Position: Executive Director, Center of Development and Racial Equity of Ecuador (CEDESTU)

Previous Positions: Judicial Advisor to the Catholic Church Pastoral Commission, Quito, 1999
President of the Federation of African Ecuadorian Organizations of Pichincha, 1997-2001
President of the Afro Association 29 of June advocating for Human Rights, 1996-1998

Education/Training: Lawyer, Universidad Central del Ecuador, 2003
B.A., Political and Social Sciences, Universidad Central del Ecuador

Memberships: School of Lawyers of Pichincha
Federation of Afro Ecuadorian groups of Pichincha
Center of Development and Racial Equity CEDESTU

Publications: The Racial Discrimination in the Ecuadorian Judicial System, book, 2009
The Afro-Ecuadorian's Political Participation in Quito, pamphlet, 2008
Quito, a city against racial discrimination, Orisha magazine, September 2007

Address: Pasaje N26C Oe9-46
Ignacio de Quezada
Sector La Comuna
Pichincha
Ecuador
Telephone: 593-2-2906883
Email: omowalelaman@hotmail.com

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: Washington, D.C.

Other Travel: Uruguay, Chile, Dominican Republic

Guatemala

Name: **Ms. Ana Lucia BLAS ARANA**

Present Position: Political Researcher

Previous Positions: Reporter, daily Prensa Libre

Education/Training: Pre-graduate degree, Political Science, Universidad Rafael Landivar, Guatemala

Memberships: National Association of Political Science Professionals

Publications: Regular opinion columns in Guatemala's daily El Periodico

Address: 10 Calle 7-48 Zona 9
Guatemala
Telephone: (502) 2331-0814
Email: alblas@asies.org.t

Languages: Spanish (native), English

U.S. Travel: yes

Other Travel: Taiwan

Honduras

Honduras

Ms. Laura DIAZ ARITA

Present Position: Planning Director, MOPAWI (Agency for the Development of La Mosquitia)

Previous Positions: Researcher for Flower Inventories Component, Project USAID/MIRA
Biology Lab Instructor, National Autonomous University of Honduras

Education/Training: Master degree, Renewable Energy and Environment
Bachelor in Science, Biology

Publications: Estudios Ecologicos Swa, Ceiba Magazine, December 2008
Ojon, la palma que se cae y se levanta, El Inventario Journal, Jan 2008

Address: Colonia Bella Oriente
Bloque B Casa 4404
Francisco Morazan
Honduras

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica

Mexico

Name: **Mrs. Lucero Fatima RUELAS AVILA**

Present Position: Political Adviser to Aguascalientes State's Governor, National Action Party (PAN)

Concurrent Position: Literacy and Language Teacher, Autonomous University of Aguascalientes

Previous Positions: Academic Tutor, Media Education Center (High School), 2005-2009
Spanish Teacher, Humanities and Social Sciences Center of the Aguascalientes Autonomy University, 2007-2008
Head, Department of Intellectual Methodology and Literature, Aguascalientes School, 2007-2008

Education/Training: Master's, Education, Valley of Mexico University, 2006
B.A., Hispanic Letters, Autonomous University of Aguascalientes, 2000-2005

Address: Palacio de Gobierno
Plaza de la Patria s/n, PB
Col. Centro
Aguascalientes
Mexico
Telephone: 449-910-2015x3416
Email: lucero.ruelas@aguascalientes.gob.mx

Languages: Spanish (primary), English

U.S. Travel: Massachusetts

Other Travel: Italy

Nicaragua

Name: **Mr. Eliseo Filimoro VALENDRES GARCIA**

Present Position: Executive President, Citizen Participation Network Pro Democratic Governability of RAAN

Previous Positions: Executive Coordinator, Movement of Indigenous and Multi-Ethnic Youth of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, 2008-2009

Education/Training: BA, Public Accounting and Finance, School of Economics and Administration, Bluefields Indian and Caribbean University (BICU), Bilwi, RAAN, 2009
Graduate course, Political Leadership for the Youth, United Nations Program (PNUD), Bilwi, RAAN, 2007
Graduate program on Human Rights and Autonomy, Center for Human Rights, Citizenship, and Autonomy, University of the Autonomous Region of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua (URACCAN), Bilwi, RAAN, 2004-2006
Graduate program on Theology, Missioner Pastoral Training (EMP) of the Moravian Church, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. 2002

Address: Bo. Libertad, contiguo a oficinas regionales de MAG-FOR
Puerto Cabezas, RAAN
Nicaragua
Telephone: 505-8830-0992
Email: elfivag@gmail.com

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. Travel

Other Travel: Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras

Panama

<i>Name:</i>	Mr. Betanio CHIQUIDAMA CABRERA
<i>Present Position:</i>	General Cacique, Embera-Wounaan Tribe
<i>Previous Positions:</i>	Architectural Drawer, 2000-2008
<i>Education/Training:</i>	Technical Degree, Architectural Drawing
<i>Address:</i>	Telephone: (507) 6533-7939
<i>Languages:</i>	Spanish
<i>U.S. Travel:</i>	no previous U.S. Travel
<i>Other Travel:</i>	Guatemala

Peru

Name: **Mr. Fernando Shuar VELASQUEZ RUIZ**

Present Position: Student and researcher in the Bagua Case, University of Piura's business school (PAD)

Previous Positions: Professor of Spanish, Literature, and Economics at the Universidad Nacional de Ingenieria-UNI (National Engineering University), 2009
Tutor, Pre-University Center of the Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya, 2008
Founder, AmazoniArte intercultural debates forum to promote a truly native (indigenous) intellectual movement in Peru, 2007
Private teacher, Aguaruna and Huambisa languages at the Antonio Ruiz de Montoya University, 2006
Collaborator, Peruvian Chapter of Amnesty International in the area of Indigenous Affairs, 2006

Education/Training: Current Senior (Philosophy major), Universidad Antonio Ruiz de Montoya (UARM) (Bachelors Degree in Philosophy anticipated December 2010)
Course on "Legislative Procedures" by Giovanni Forno (UARM), 2009
Conference, "Perspectives and Development Opportunities within the Framework of Climate Change in Peru", Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru (PUCP), Civil Association /Law Workshop, 2008
First International Seminar, "Research Journalism in the Areas of Drug Trafficking, Human Rights and Corruption", 2006
Workshop, "Journalistic Computerized Photography" (UARM), 2006
Interreligious Dialogues Seminar, "Religions, Weltanschauung and the Environment" (Faith and Culture Institute/UARM), 2003
Conference Cycle, "Ethics, Society and Culture" (Faith and Culture Institute/UARM) 2003
Workshop/Course, "You Have Rights, Know What They Are, Promote Them and Fight for Them" (Faith and Culture Institute/UARM), 2002

Publications: Publication of poems in PAGINAS Magazine, 2009

Address: PAD Universidad de Piura
Escuela de Negocios
Calle Aldebaran 160, Urb. Polo Hunt
Lima 33
Peru

Telephone: 51 1 999-790-143
Email: shuarvr@hotmail.com

Languages: Spanish (primary), Aguaruna

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Venezuela

Name: **Ms. Nikarely Thivayre MAPPARI LARREAL**

Present Position: Assistant Deputy to the Permanent Commission of Indigenous People, Environment and Natural Resources, Legislative Council of Zulia State

Concurrent Position: Regional Assistant Secretary for Indigenous issues at Zulia state, Un Nuevo Tiempo (UNT) political party
Indigenous Representative, Urban Planning Council, Government of Zulia state

Previous Positions: Community Services Coordinator, FUNDAEDUCA, Foundation for Education Infrastructure of Zulia State
Assistant, Permanent Commission of Services, Administration and Controller's Department, Legislative Council of Zulia State, 2005-2006

Education/Training: Master's degree, Human Resources Management, Universidad Rafael Belloso Chacin, Maracaibo, Zulia state, Venezuela, 2007
B.S., Social Work, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo, Zulia state, Venezuela, 2004

Memberships: Venezuelan Social Workers Association

Address: Consejo Legislativo del Estado Zulia
Centro, Calle Obispolazo #95 con Av. #4
Frente Plaza Bolivar Palacio legislativo
Maracaibo, Edo. Zulia
Telephone: 58-414-643-7468
Email: ntml@hotmail.com

Languages: Spanish (primary), Wayuu

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. Travel

Other Travel: Brazil

Venezuela

Name: **Ms. Isabel Carolina MEDINA ORTIZ**

Present Position: Consultant Lawyer, National Elections Council, CNE

Concurrent Position: Professor of Contracts and Guarantees, Law School, Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV)

Previous Positions: Lawyer, Documentation Lawyer, BANESCO, 1997-1998
Intern, Universidad Central de Venezuela, 1996

Education/Training: PHD in Law (in progress), Universidad Central de Venezuela.
Graduate studies, International Economic Law, Universidad Central de Venezuela, 2007
Graduate Studies, Commerce Law, Universidad Central de Venezuela, 2004
Lawyer, Universidad Central de Venezuela, 1997

Memberships: District Capital Bar Association

Address: Av. Rio Orinoco. Res. Iguazu. PH-A
Urbanizacion Cumbres de Curumo
Caracas, Edo. Miranda
Telephone: 58-416-823-6972
Email: icmedinac@yahoo.com

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: Florida

Other Travel: Egypt, Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Turkey

Venezuela

Name: **Ms. Ursula Coromoto STRAKA MEDINA**

Present Position: Director, Public Policy Training Program, Andres Bello Catholic University (UCAB), World Bank and ONG ProPaz

Concurrent Position: Researcher and Professor in Human Rights, Andres Bello Catholic University, UCAB
Professor of Human Rights, Universidad Metropolitana (UNIMET)
Consultant on human rights, civic engagement and social implications of policies for local municipalities, government ministries, NGO's, and international organizations

Previous Positions: Internal Advisor on Judicial Issues, Compania Anonima de Administracion y Fomento Electrico (CADAFE), 2002-2003
Section Chief, Department of Justice, Chacao Municipality, 2001-2002
Financial Analyst, Fondo de Garantia de Depositos y Proteccion Bancaria (FOGADE), 2000-2001
Many research programs on social issues

Education/Training: Master of Business Administration, Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administracion (IESA), 2003
Master's degree in Public Policy, IESA 2000
Law Degree, UCAB, 1997
Numerous certificates from short courses in human rights and public management

Memberships: District Capital Bar Association
IESA Alumni Association

Publications: Human Rights, New Visions, UCAB, Caracas, 2010
Human Rights Manual, UCV, Caracas, 2009
Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, UCAB & Fundacion Konrad Adenauer, 2005
Exceptional States and Agency Problems, Revista Politica, 2002
The Rights of People, La Religion, 1997

Address: Calle Maria Auxiliadora, Res. Bambusal
Torre A, piso 7, Apto. 75A
Urb. Los Ruices
Caracas, Edo. Miranda
Telephone: 58-416-620-7139
Email: ustraka@gmail.com

Languages: Spanish

U.S. Travel: Washington, DC

Other Travel: Argentina, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia,
Mexico